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Water and Health to the Convention on
the Protection and Use of Transboundary
Watercourses and International Lakes

Working Group on Water and Health

Eleventh meeting

Geneva, 3 and 4 April 2019

Item 14 of the provisional agenda

**Programme of work for 2020–2022, terms of reference
for the bodies established to implement it and resources
needed for its implementation**

Draft programme of work for 2020–2022

Prepared by the Bureau with the support of the secretariat

Summary

The present document sets out a draft programme of work for 2020–2022 for the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, summarizing the overarching objectives and the proposed activities for 2020–2022 and indicating bodies to support their implementation. Estimates of the human and financial resources needed to implement the draft programme of work will be presented in a complementary informal document.

By its terms of reference, the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol is mandated, inter alia, to provide guidance on the implementation of the programme of work and to advise the Meeting of the Parties in respect of the further development of the programme of work and its adaptation to changing circumstances (see ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.2-EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.2). The present draft programme of work for the period 2020–2022 was prepared by the Bureau, with the support of the secretariat, for consideration by the Working Group at its eleventh session.

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This document builds on the achievements and lessons learned in implementing the past programmes of work and on discussions in previous meetings of the Working Group on Water and Health, the Bureau and other Protocol bodies.

The Working Group on Water and Health is invited:

- (a) To examine the proposals contained in the document, to critically review and prioritize them, and to consider that the available resources may not allow for the implementation of all the proposed activities;
- (b) To further elaborate on the elements that should become part of the draft programme of work, including, wherever possible, information on the method of work and the time frame;
- (c) To draw up additional elements for the draft programme of work, if needed, following proposals by Parties and other States, including, wherever possible, suggestions on the method of work and the time frame;
- (d) To consider, on the basis of the agreed draft programme of work, the need to revise the terms of reference of the Working Group on Water and Health, in particular in relation to the frequency of its meetings, and the terms of reference of other subsidiary bodies under the Protocol in order to implement the draft programme of work;
- (e) To report on the willingness of Parties and other States to lead, contribute to, including financially, or to participate in the implementation of the various elements of the draft programme of work;
- (f) To report on the willingness of other stakeholders, such as international financing institutions, non-governmental and international organizations, donors and development agencies, to become partners and/or to provide financial resources and/or in-kind contributions to the implementation of the various elements of the draft programme of work;
- (g) To consider whether the provision of additional human and financial resources from the United Nations regular budget to the ECE secretariat would be needed to ensure the implementation of the programme of work;
- (h) To agree on future steps for finalizing the draft programme of work, and to entrust the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, to submit it to the Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session (Belgrade, 19–21 November 2019).

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I. Overarching objectives of the programme of work

1. The main objective of the programme of work for 2020–2022 of the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) is to support Parties in the implementation of and compliance with the Protocol, and to assist other States in acceding to and applying the Protocol.

2. The programme of work aims to address the main challenges related to water, sanitation and health in the pan-European region, and thereby contribute to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and the Ostrava Declaration on Environment and Health, by:

(a) Building evidence on the prevailing problems and existing solutions, as well as tracking progress in order to underpin rational policy development and decision-making;

(b) Strengthening political commitment to addressing the problems identified through policy dialogue, advocacy and awareness-raising;

(c) Developing policy and technical guidance and tools that substantiate and guide the implementation of the Protocol’s provisions, as well as supporting their use and implementation;

(d) Building capacity and fostering the exchange of knowledge and experience and the development of partnerships to promote human health, well-being and sustainable water management;

(e) Providing support to countries in the implementation of the Protocol through in-country capacity-building and assistance;

(f) Promoting whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, and establishing partnerships with relevant actors, including in sectors other than health and environment, such as civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, international organizations and international financing institutions;

(g) Ensuring long-term impact in policy and practice by fostering the adoption of measures to promote human health, well-being and sustainable water management across all relevant policies, including through the setting of targets and target dates in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol and through the establishment of action plans for their implementation.

A. Relevance to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the role of the Protocol in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals

3. The Protocol on Water and Health is a powerful instrument to promote and operationalize the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the pan-European region. The Protocol was a precursor of the Sustainable Development Goals pertinent to water, sanitation and health. It placed the region on track by promoting the integration of policies in a holistic and preventive approach to achieve safely managed water and sanitation services and universal and equitable access for all, across all settings where people live, work, learn, play and seek care. The Protocol provides a successful intergovernmental regional platform, a sound governance approach, a wealth of knowledge and experience, and practical tools to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. While the Protocol specifically focuses on Goal 6 to “ensure access to water and sanitation for all” and Goal 3 to “ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages”, it further

supports the implementation of Goal 1 to “end poverty in all its forms everywhere”, Goal 2 on “zero hunger”, Goal 4 on “quality education”, Goal 11 to “make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable” and Goal 13 to “take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”.

4. The Protocol and the 2030 Agenda are mutually reinforcing. Countries have benefited from their joint implementation since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, which has led to the expanded scope of activities under the Protocol to fully align with the needs of the region. The momentum of the 2030 Agenda has furthered implementation of the Protocol, which in turn clearly supports the achievement of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda.

5. Indeed, the Protocol represents an effective instrument to advance implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It offers a practical framework for planning and accountability to help countries translate the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda into tangible national objectives, targets and actions, which take into account national circumstances while promoting an intersectoral approach. It provides guidance and practical tools, that facilitate implementation of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, as well as technical capacity-building at the national and regional level. Activities under the programme of work will promote the implementation of national targets and provide a regional platform to facilitate exchange of experience and good practices on the implementation of the water, sanitation and health goals of the 2030 Agenda.

B. The Ostrava Declaration on Environment and Health and other global and regional commitments

6. The Protocol objectives and its programme of work strategically align with and support the attainment of the Declaration of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (Ostrava Declaration). Ensuring universal, equitable and sustainable access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for all and in all settings and strengthening the adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change-related health risks are priority areas of the Ostrava Declaration. The Protocol and its programme of work continue to support the accomplishment of the time-bound target of the Declaration of the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (Parma Declaration) on water, sanitation and hygiene in settings used by children by 2020 on water, sanitation and hygiene in settings used by children by 2020.

7. The Ostrava Declaration and the Protocol on Water and Health are complementary. The Declaration calls to advance the implementation of the Protocol. In turn, Parties to the Protocol can capitalize on the national targets and implementation plans established within the Protocol framework when developing and implementing their national portfolio of actions on the environment and health under the Ostrava Declaration.

8. With regard to other global and regional commitments, the programme of work will:

(a) Promote the realization of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, as articulated in United Nations General Assembly resolutions 64/292 (2010), 68/157 (2014), 70/169 (2015) and 72/178 (2017), and in the Human Rights Council resolution 39/8 (2018), among others;

(b) Support the implementation of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;

(c) Contribute to the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” 2018–2028 proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/222 (2016) and to related activities at the regional level;

(d) Promote the implementation of the World Health Assembly (WHA) resolution 64/24 (2011) on “Drinking-water, Sanitation and Health”, which acknowledges the Protocol as an instrument of reference for safe water management and the protection of human health and urges member States to ensure the progressive realization of the human right to water and sanitation, as well as of the forthcoming resolution of the 72nd WHA on water, sanitation and hygiene in health-care facilities;

(e) Support regional implementation of the forthcoming World Health Organization (WHO) global strategy on health, environment and climate change: the transformation needed to improve lives and well-being sustainably through healthy environments, in which water, sanitation, hygiene and health play a central role;

(f) Assist member countries of the WHO Small Countries Initiative to pursue commitments laid down in the Iceland Statement “Ensuring Safe and Climate-Resilient Water and Sanitation”¹ adopted at its fifth high-level meeting (Reykjavík, 26–27 June 2018), which includes a commitment to ratify or accede to the Protocol by 2022;

(g) Contribute to the implementation of “Health 2020, a European health policy framework and strategy for the 21st century”, of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, which sets out an agenda for action across government and society to improve health and well-being, strengthen public health capacities, reduce health inequalities and create resilient communities.

C. Methods of work

9. The programme of work for 2020–2022 advances the work carried out under previous programmes of work and capitalizes on the achievements made to date. In general, activities under the different programme areas will assist Parties, other States and other actors in their efforts to achieve step-by-step progress in water, sanitation and health, from creating awareness, building evidence and increasing institutional and technical capacities through to policy uptake and the implementation of policy goals.

10. Synergies and partnerships are vital for the successful implementation of the programme of work. The implementation of the different activities will:

(a) Ensure exchange and coordination with the work under the Water Convention, other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and the European Environment and Health Process;

(b) Reach out to sectors other than water, environment and health, such as education, agriculture, energy, land planning and finance, to strengthen their awareness and commitment to water, sanitation and health issues, and to involve them in the implementation of the programme of work.

II. Bodies to implement the programme of work

11. The Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties will oversee programme execution and carry out tasks to strengthen the Protocol’s implementation, as set out in rule 20 of the rules

¹ Available from www.euro.who.int/en/publications/policy-documents/ensuring-safe-and-climate-resilient-water-and-sanitation-the-iceland-statement.

of procedure (see ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.1-EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.1). The main responsibilities of the Bureau include:

(a) making arrangements to further develop the programme of work, adapting it to changing circumstances, and avoiding—to the extent possible—the duplication of efforts in activities related to water, sanitation and health of other United Nations bodies and international organizations;

(b) taking initiatives to strengthen the implementation of the Protocol;

(c) taking appropriate measures to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work.

12. In accordance with its terms of reference, the Working Group on Water and Health will be responsible for overseeing the overall implementation of the programme of work. It will review and evaluate the progress made in implementing the Protocol, propose modifications to the work programme to adapt it to changing conditions, and report to the Meeting of the Parties.

13. The Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting will carry out parts of the programme of work related to the implementation of and compliance with articles 6 and 7 of the Protocol, also with the aim to support Parties and other States in translating the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, the objectives of the Ostrava Declaration, and other global and regional commitments into national targets and action.

14. The Compliance Committee will be responsible for the review of compliance by Parties with their obligations under the Protocol, in accordance with decision I/2 on review of compliance (ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.3-EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.3).

15. In accordance with article 16 of the Protocol, the Meeting of the Parties will establish close cooperation and develop joint activities together with the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention and relevant international governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and institutions, including WHO collaborating centres.

16. Parties welcome youth participation in the work of the Meeting of the Parties and the subsidiary Bodies of the Protocol, including in the implementation of the programme of work. To facilitate this participation, Parties are encouraged to provide support for youth representatives to participate in these meetings.

17. In accordance with article 17 of the Protocol, the joint United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the WHO Regional Office for Europe secretariat will assist the above-mentioned bodies and support the implementation of activities under the programme of work, pending the availability of resources and in accordance with the provisions of the ECE-WHO/Europe memorandum of understanding on the work-sharing arrangements regarding the secretariat functions of the Protocol, concluded on 21 June 2013.

III. Areas of work and activities

18. The areas of work and activities under the Protocol reflect core priorities in the water, sanitation and health domain in the pan-European region, as expressed by Parties and other States, and support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. They include improving governance for water and health through setting targets and implementing measures, strengthening of surveillance to combat water-related disease, promoting universal and equitable access to safe water for all, including in rural areas, schools, hospitals and workplaces, ensuring safely managed sanitation that protects health and the environment, fostering climate resilient water and sanitation services and promoting sustainable management and the conservation of water resources.

19. The fulfilment of the above objectives is subject to the availability of resources to cover the costs of implementing the activities in the programme of work, including the costs of human resources in the joint secretariat.

20. The programme of work aims to strengthen the thematic interlinkages between the different programme areas inherent in the nature of the issues covered by the Protocol, and to promote synergies and complementarities in the overall implementation of activities. In particular, activities carried out under the different programme areas will ensure coordination with the work on setting targets and implementing measures so that knowledge, experience and the capacities gathered under the different areas are translated into the setting of targets in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol.

A. Programme area 1 — Improving governance for water and health: support for implementing the 2030 Agenda through setting targets and implementing measures

Responsible body: Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting.

Lead Parties: Portugal and Romania.

Objectives and expected outcomes: Reinforce the implementation of the core provisions of the Protocol on target setting and reporting under articles 6 and 7 by:

(a) Providing support to Parties and other States to set targets and target dates in accordance with article 6 and to establish action plans and implement measures towards the achievement of the targets set, including by fostering the implementation of the *Guidelines on the Setting of Targets, Evaluation of Progress and Reporting* and the use of *Collection of Good Practices and Lessons Learned on Target Setting and Reporting under the Protocol on Water and Health*;

(b) Supporting Parties and other States in translating the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, the Ostrava Declaration and other global and regional commitments into national targets and action, including by fostering the use of the *Protocol on Water and Health and the 2030 Agenda: a practical guide for joint implementation* (forthcoming);

(c) Promoting exchange of experiences and good practices on the common challenges, approaches and benefits of implementing the Protocol on regional and subregional levels;

(d) Promoting public participation in implementing the Protocol, in particular when setting targets and target dates, as well as establishing action plans and implementing measures in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol, and reviewing and assessing progress in accordance with article 7, including by promoting understanding and use of the *Guide to Public Participation under the Protocol on Water and Health*;

(e) Ensuring coordination with activities under other areas of the programme of work to facilitate the translation of their findings and recommendations into targets and measures;

(f) Providing assistance in strengthening the reporting capacity of Parties and other States, including through aligning the reporting under the Protocol with the 2030 Agenda monitoring process.

Linkages to the 2030 Agenda: The target areas under article 6 of the Protocol are linked to all Sustainable Development Goal targets relevant to water, sanitation and health. This programme area will support the attainment of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda at the pan-European level.

Possible partners: National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Supply and Sanitation under the European Union Water Initiative (National Policy Dialogues); national, subregional and regional environment, water and health non-governmental organizations; Nordic/Baltic Network for Water and Health under the Protocol; WHO Collaborating Centre at the University of Bonn, Germany; WHO headquarters; and the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6, including WHO/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP), UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking water (GLAAS) and Global Expanded Monitoring Initiative (GEMI)).

1. Setting targets and implementing measures

The Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting will support efforts of Parties and other States to set targets and target dates in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol, and to establish action plans and implement measures towards meeting those targets. In particular, the Task Force will:

(a) Based on the analysis of the national targets and the outcomes of the fourth reporting exercise in accordance with article 7, consider specific issues and common challenges related to setting targets and implementing measures, including those not yet addressed by the programme of work. The Task Force will also build capacity and facilitate the sharing of experience, in particular with regard to the setting or revision of targets and implementing measures under programme areas 2–7 in close cooperation with the respective lead Parties. Two meetings of the Task Force will be organized to build capacity of Parties and other States on the above. Synergies with the National Policy Dialogues will be further strengthened;

(b) Support the organization of tailor-made national, subregional and regional workshops, for example in South-Eastern Europe and Southern Europe, to advance the setting or revision of targets, the implementation of measures and public participation in the Protocol's implementation, including by promoting the exchange of experiences and the cross-fertilization of ideas between countries;

(c) Promote the setting of targets under the Protocol in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Ostrava Declaration, in particular by disseminating the *Protocol on Water and Health and the 2030 Agenda: a practical guide for joint implementation* (forthcoming);

(d) Continue to promote good practices on setting targets and implementing measures, including by facilitating the twinning of Parties and relevant authorities to match the specific national needs of a Party with available expertise in another Party.

2. Strengthening reporting capacity

The Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting will:

(a) Continue to assist Parties in complying with the reporting obligations of article 7 and to support improvements in the quality of reporting, including by supporting the development of an electronic reporting tool;

(b) Strengthen linkages between the reporting system under the Protocol and the 2030 Agenda monitoring framework. A thematic meeting of the Task Force focusing on global monitoring instruments will be organized to further support establishing linkages with WHO/UNICEF JMP, GLAAS and GEMI;

(c) Guide the secretariat in the preparation of the regional implementation report oriented towards communicating the findings and showcasing the progress made at the

regional level based on the national summary reports submitted prior to the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties. The regional implementation report will also reflect on the process of setting and revising targets in different countries.

3. Fostering synergies with the 2030 Agenda and the Ostrava Declaration on Environment and Health

(a) Promote, based on the *Protocol on Water and Health and the 2030 Agenda: a practical guide for joint implementation*, the strengthening of synergies with the processes related to the Sustainable Development Goals pertinent to water, sanitation and health at the national level by encouraging contributions to the Voluntary National Reports and, at the regional and global levels, by providing input to the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE region and the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;

(b) Strengthen synergies with and contribute to the European Environment and Health Process, specifically by positioning the Protocol as an effective instrument in implementing and tracking progress on water, sanitation and health related commitments of the Ostrava Declaration.

B. Programme area 2 — Prevention and reduction of water-related diseases

Lead Parties: Belarus and Norway.

Objectives and expected outcomes: Support Parties and other States in implementing article 8 of the Protocol, specifically to:

(a) Strengthen national and local capacities with regard to improving, maintaining and sustaining vigilant public health surveillance and early warning systems of water-related disease;

(b) Enhance preparedness, outbreak responses and investigation capacities;

(c) Support the building of effective systems for surveillance of drinking water quality.

Activities will substantiate and foster the setting of targets for the preventing and reducing water-related disease in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol. They will also reinforce the implementation of article 12 of the Protocol on joint and coordinated international action, thereby supporting the implementation of the WHO International Health Regulations, particularly in strengthening the national core capacities for surveillance and response.

Linkages to the 2030 Agenda: This programme area aligns with and supports efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal target 3.3 to combat waterborne disease; target 3.9 to reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from water pollution and contamination; target 3.d to strengthen the capacity for early warning, risk reduction and management of risks; and targets 6.1–6.2 to achieve equitable and universal access to safely managed drinking-water and sanitation services for all.

Possible partners: European Commission; European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control; Nordic/Baltic Network for Water and Health under the Protocol; WHO Collaborating Centres (at the University of Bonn (Germany), the Drinking Water Inspectorate (United Kingdom), the KWR Watercycle Research Institute (Netherlands), and the University of Surrey (United Kingdom); and WHO headquarters.

1. Strengthening capacity in surveillance of water-related diseases and outbreak management

Work will be undertaken to:

(a) Broadly disseminate the newly developed technical guidance on *Waterborne disease surveillance and outbreak management* (forthcoming) and promote national uptake for improving water-related disease surveillance and early warning systems. To this end, subregional and national capacity-building workshops on water-related disease surveillance and outbreak management will be organized, including evaluation of their impacts at national and local levels. These activities will address the key principles of surveillance, main steps of waterborne outbreak management as well as common challenges and steps to strengthen surveillance of water-related disease. Depending on a country's needs, capacity-building activities will be organized as stand-alone trainings or integrated within thematic area 2.2 on surveillance of drinking-water quality;

(b) Update and make available previously developed training modules on water-related disease surveillance and outbreak management by adding annotated notes for trainers, and developing additional modules based on the new technical guidance document;

(c) Convene a regional meeting to take stock of the situation with regard to the prevalence of *Legionella* infections, and to facilitate an exchange of experience and good practices related to Legionnaires' disease prevention, control and surveillance.

2. Strengthening capacity in uptake of risk-based approaches in drinking-water quality surveillance

Work will be undertaken to:

(a) Disseminate the technical guidance on *Risk-based approaches towards strengthening drinking water quality surveillance* (forthcoming) and promote national uptake for strengthening drinking-water quality surveillance;

(b) Organize subregional and national capacity-building workshops to support Parties and other States in the adoption of risk-based surveillance approaches in regulations and practice. Focus will be on conducting integrated trainings within other programme areas that have clear linkages to risk-based approaches, specifically capacity-building trainings in coordination with programme areas 4 on small-scale water supplies and sanitation, programme area 5 on safe and efficient management of water supply and sanitation, and thematic area 2.1 on water-related disease surveillance;

(c) Create and disseminate a reference list/inventory of supporting resources on risk-based surveillance of drinking-water quality, such as national regulations, standards and tools, and foster the exchange of country experiences and best practices.

C. Programme area 3 — Institutional water, sanitation and hygiene

Lead Parties and country: Hungary, Republic of Moldova and Georgia (tbc).

Objectives and expected outcomes: Support Parties and other States to ensure water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services in institutional settings, particularly in schools, kindergartens and health-care facilities, to

(a) Support monitoring and systematic situation assessments of the status of WASH services in institutional settings;

(b) Promote effective cooperation and partnership between education and health systems' sectors to foster improved health and educational outcomes;

(c) Strengthen partnership and collaboration with youth organizations;

(d) Support the translation of global and regional commitments on institutional WASH into national targets and action plans in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol.

The programme area will also support the UN Secretary General's call for action to provide WASH for all health-care facilities by 2030 to provide WASH for all health care facilities by 2030 and the WHO/UNICEF global action plan on WASH in health care facilities. Programme area 3 further addresses the regional priorities defined by the Ostrava Declaration to ensure and sustain the provision of adequate WASH services in schools and health-care facilities and to build environmentally sustainable health systems. The Protocol capitalizes on these developments and provides a platform for policy dialogue and leadership with regard to regional implementation.

The work also complements various initiatives on health-promoting schools, quality care services, maternal and childcare, infection prevention and control, antimicrobial resistance and environmentally sustainable and climate resilient health systems.

The work focuses on vulnerable population groups and therefore contributes to ensuring equitable and universal access to WASH services for all and in all relevant settings. The work on institutional WASH will be closely linked with programme area 6 on equitable access to water and sanitation, and programme area 4 on small-scale water supplies and sanitation.

Linkages to the 2030 Agenda: This programme area aligns with and supports the implementation of SDG target 3.2 to end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age; target 3.3 to eliminate neglected tropical and waterborne diseases; target 3.8 to improve access to quality essential health-care services; target 3.9 to reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from water pollution and contamination; target 4a to provide safe learning environments for all; and targets 6.1–6.2 to achieve equitable and universal access to safely managed drinking-water and sanitation services for all.

Possible partners: European Environment and Health Youth Coalition; German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and its Programme on Sustainable Sanitation; national, subregional and regional non-governmental organizations working on WASH in institutions; UNESCO; UNICEF headquarters; the Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, and country offices; WHO Collaborating Centre at the University of Bonn (Germany); WHO headquarters; and Women Engage for a Common Future.

1. Strengthening action towards improving water, sanitation and hygiene in schools

The expert group on WASH in schools will continue to guide the work and provide a platform for regional networking.

Work will be undertaken to:

(a) Disseminate tools for the surveillance of WASH in schools and for school managers (forthcoming) and promote their national and local uptake. To this end, organize regional and subregional workshops to disseminate available evidence and tools on WASH in schools, promote leadership and cooperation between the education and health sectors, facilitate the sharing of good practices, and support target setting and action planning on WASH in schools in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol. In cooperation with programme area 6, these activities will also consider aspects of equitable access;

(b) Support further national and local uptake of the tools and resources developed, undertake two in-country pilot projects on assessing and improving the situation on WASH in schools;

(c) Collect evidence on tap water consumption in schools in selected countries to serve as a basis for policy action to promote tap water consumption in schools, improve hydration among children, and reduce the consumption of sugary beverages with positive effects on pupils' health and school performance;

(d) Develop a practical guidance document on available sanitation options for schools.

2. Strengthening action towards improving water, sanitation and hygiene in health-care facilities

Work will be undertaken to:

(a) Undertake and disseminate a review of evidence on WASH in health-care facilities in the pan-European region. The report shall identify data gaps and improvement needs with respect to WASH in such facilities, and support Parties and other States as a basis for developing national targets and action plans on improvement in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol;

(b) Develop a practical surveillance tool for data collection on WASH in health-care facilities. The use of the tool will support countries in strengthening the national surveillance of WASH in health-care facilities, as well as reporting under the Protocol and relevant SDG targets;

(c) Organize regional meeting on WASH in health-care facilities to disseminate the findings of the regional evidence review and to inform development of the practical surveillance tool;

(d) Support baseline analysis of the situation in relation to WASH in health-care facilities in two countries to inform national target setting and action planning in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol. The analysis will include, inter alia, review of national regulations and standards, assessment of WASH conditions in different types and levels of health-care facilities and identification of priority needs;

(e) Support in-country capacities on applying the *Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool (WASH FIT)* for improving quality of care through better WASH management in health-care facilities;

(f) Promote and support country actions for the integration of safe WASH in health-care facilities in national health strategies and action plans on antimicrobial resistance.

D. Programme area 4 — Small-scale water supplies and sanitation

Lead Parties: Germany and Serbia.

Objectives and expected outcomes: Support Parties and other States to:

(a) Increase policy attention to small-scale water supply and sanitation systems;

(b) Support policy uptake and the implementation of approaches based on good practices in the regulation, management and surveillance of small-scale water supply and sanitation at national and local levels;

(c) Assist Parties and other States in improving access to safe, sustainable and equitable drinking water and sanitation services in rural areas, small towns and peri-urban areas.

Activities under this programme area will further substantiate and foster consideration of small-scale water supply and sanitation in target setting under article 6 of the Protocol, including at the local level, and are closely linked to other programme areas, particularly

programme area 3 on institutional WASH, programme area 5 on safe and efficient management of water supply and sanitation systems, programme area 6 on equitable access to water and sanitation, and programme area 7 on increasing resilience to climate change. Complementary field activities will contribute to improving the in-country evidence base on small-scale systems and to scaling-up water safety and sanitation safety planning approaches in policy and practice.

Linkages to the 2030 Agenda: This programme area aligns with and supports the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal target 3.3 to combat waterborne disease; target 3.9 to reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from water pollution and contamination; targets 6.1–6.2 to achieve equitable and universal access to safely managed drinking-water and sanitation services for all; and target 6.b to support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

Possible partners: European Commission; International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC), the Netherlands; national, subregional and regional non-governmental organizations working on small-scale systems; Nordic/Baltic Network for Water and Health; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); Oxfam; Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC); WHO Collaborating Centres (at the Drinking Water Inspectorate (United Kingdom) and at the Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (EAWAG) (Switzerland)); Women Engage for a Common Future; and WHO headquarters.

1. Improving the evidence base for better policy development for small-scale systems

Work will be undertaken to:

(a) Analyse the information provided on small-scale water supply and sanitation systems under the fourth reporting cycle under the Protocol on Water and Health with a particular focus on information available and reported on rural areas, targets set to improve the situation of small-scale water supply and sanitation systems, and key improvement actions that Parties and other States have taken within the programme of work for 2017–2019.

In collaboration with the lead Parties of programme area 6 on equitable access to water and sanitation, collect and assess information on actions taken towards reducing rural-urban disparities to equitable access to water supply and sanitation services.

This information shall identify data gaps and needs with respect to rural systems, and support Parties and other States as a basis for target setting and developing national policies and strategies to improve small-scale water supply and sanitation. This activity will also support and be linked with the work of the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting under the Protocol and programme area 1;

(b) Based on the technical resources developed under the Protocol, as well as the *WHO Guidelines for drinking-water quality* and the *WHO Guidelines on sanitation and health*, promote tools and good practices that support the formulation of national road maps, policies, regulations and programmes, and which aim to improve the situation of small-scale water supply and sanitation, including through national capacity-building events (upon request by countries).

2. Strengthening the application of approaches to safe management of small-scale systems

In close cooperation with programme area 5, work will be undertaken to:

(a) Update the document *Water safety plan: a field guide to improving drinking-water safety in small communities* based on experiences collated in field application across

the region, develop supporting awareness-raising materials and develop a complementary water and sanitation safety plan tool for application in rural areas. These activities aim to encourage Parties and other States to take a holistic approach to managing drinking-water and sanitation safety of small-scale systems in rural areas;

(b) Support field projects on improved planning, operation and management of small-scale water supply and sanitation systems, with a particular focus on capacity development and the implementation of integrated water and sanitation safety plans in rural areas. Such field projects are expected to establish a valuable link between policy action at the national level and action at the local level, which may also form a basis for Parties to develop subnational targets;

(c) Develop training materials for the application of water safety plans for small-scale water supplies in the pan-European region. To better reach operators and surveillance agencies in remote areas, options to disseminate them through e-learning platforms will be investigated.

3. Strengthen capacity for the sustainable financing of small-scale systems

Work will be undertaken to:

(a) Support the publication of a guidance document on costing and financing of small-scale water supply and sanitation;

(b) Promote good practices and tools on the sustainable financing of small-scale water supply and sanitation, including promotion of the guidance document on costing and sustainable financing;

(c) Build capacities of policy makers and authorities at national and local levels on the key principles in the costing and sustainable financing of small-scale water supply and sanitation services, and track financing of small-scale services.

E. Programme area 5 — Safe and efficient management of water supply and sanitation systems

Lead Parties: Bosnia and Herzegovina (tbc) and the Netherlands.

Objectives and expected outcomes: Support Parties and other States to ensure safe and efficient management of water supply and sanitation services by strengthening national capacities with regard to the sustainable management of water resources and scaling-up risk-based management approaches, including the consideration of the impacts of water-related natural disasters on human health and the environment. Activities will aim to support improved management of water supply and sanitation services by enabling regulators and managers, and promoting cooperation and exchange of experiences with a view to protecting the environment and public health. Activities will substantiate and foster the setting of targets towards uptake of safe management of water and sanitation services in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol. Activities will be developed in cooperation with activities under programme area 1 on target setting, programme area 2 on prevention and reduction of water-related diseases, programme area 4 on small-scale water supplies, programme area 6 on equitable access to water and sanitation, and programme area 7 on increasing resilience to climate change.

Linkages to the 2030 Agenda: Programme area 5 aligns with and supports the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal target 3.3 to combat waterborne disease; target 3.9 to reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from water pollution and contamination; and targets 6.1–6.3 to achieve access to safely managed drinking water and

adequate sanitation for all, to improve water quality, to halve the proportion of untreated wastewater, and to substantially increase recycling and safe reuse.

Possible partners: European Commission; European Federation of National Associations of Water Services (EurEau); Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe; IRC, the Netherlands; International Water Association (IWA); National Policy Dialogues; national, subregional and regional non-governmental organizations working on safe and efficient management; United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); Women Engage for a Common Future; WHO Collaborating Centres (at EAWAG (Switzerland), at the German Environment Agency (Germany), and at the Drinking Water Inspectorate (United Kingdom); and WHO headquarters.

1. Scaling-up the adoption of water and sanitation safety plans

Work will be undertaken to:

(a) Build capacity at the national, subregional and regional levels on water safety plan (WSP) and sanitation safety plan (SSP) approaches in policy and practice on the basis of existing *WHO Guidelines for drinking-water quality* and *WHO Guidelines on sanitation and health*, and tools developed under the Protocol. Capacity-building and assistance will focus on strengthening uptake of WSPs and SSPs in national policies and legislation, and supporting the development of country road maps towards long-term scaling-up of these approaches. This includes building capacities on WSP auditing and on risk-based approaches to drinking water management and water quality monitoring (in coordination with programme area 2). Consideration will also be given to small-scale water supply and sanitation systems (in coordination with programme area 4) and climate resilient water and sanitation safety planning (in coordination with programme area 7);

(b) Support conceptual development and the implementation of pilot projects on integrated water and sanitation safety plans with a focus on small-scale water supply and sanitation systems (in coordination with programme area 4).

2. Focus policy attention and technical efforts on sanitation

Work will be undertaken to:

(a) Disseminate and communicate at national, subregional and regional levels the findings of the scoping study on sanitation that summarizes existing challenges and practices in sanitation management throughout the pan-European region, including through a policy brief for decision makers;

(b) Upon request, support sanitation policy development at country level related to effective regulations, sustainable technical interventions and financial approaches, including consideration of health and environmental risks and challenges deriving from global pressures, such as climate change and water scarcity, urbanization, migration and increasing inequalities;

(c) Under the leadership of an expert group on sanitation, develop further policy and/or technical guidance and practical tools under the Protocol, based on the scoping study results and outcomes of the 2019 regional workshop on safe and efficient management of sanitation.

3. Focus policy attention on increasing climate resilience

Work will be undertaken to develop capacity and promote good practices on building climate resilience of drinking water supply and sanitation services, including preparing for and responding to extreme weather events by organizing a regional workshop (in coordination with programme areas 4 and 7).

F. Programme area 6 — Equitable access to water and sanitation: translating into practice the human right to water and sanitation

Lead Parties: France (tbc) and Hungary (tbc).

Objectives and expected outcomes: Activities will support the implementation of the Protocol's requirement to ensure access to water and sanitation for all, including those suffering a disadvantage or social exclusion (article 5) and thereby the progressive realization of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation.

Work under this programme area will assist countries in addressing equity aspects in policy making processes related to the provision of water and sanitation services, and facilitate the identification and implementation of solutions to ensure equitable access in the pan-European region. Activities will further substantiate and advance consideration of equity aspects in target setting according to article 6 (in coordination with programme area 1), and will complement activities on small-scale water supplies and sanitation (programme area 4), water and sanitation safety plans (programme area 5), and WASH in schools and health-care facilities (programme area 3).

Linkages to the 2030 Agenda: This programme area aligns with and supports implementation of Sustainable Development Goal target 1.4 to ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have access to basic services; target 4.a to provide safe learning environments for all; target 6.1 to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all; target 6.2 to achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations; and target 11.1 to ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and upgrade slums.

Possible partners: European Commission; European Federation of National Associations of Water Services (EurEau); National Policy Dialogues; International Water Association (IWA); national human rights institutions; national, subregional and regional non-governmental organizations working on access to water and sanitation; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); relevant cities' networks; Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation; UN-Water; and WHO headquarters.

1. Raising awareness about the situation of equitable access to water and sanitation

Work will be undertaken to:

(a) Scale-up the application of the *Equitable Access Score-card*² to support baseline analyses on the equity of access to water and sanitation at national and local levels in up to three countries or subnational regions;

(b) Develop training and/or communication materials on equitable access to water and sanitation based on the publications *No One Left Behind: Good Practices to Ensure Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation in the pan-European Region* and *Realising the human rights to water and sanitation in the pan-European region: findings and lessons learned from the work on equitable access to water and sanitation under the Protocol on Water and Health* (forthcoming);

(c) Facilitate the exchange of experiences by organizing a regional workshop on the progress made and remaining challenges so as to ensure equitable access to water and

² *The Equitable Access Score-card: Supporting policy processes to achieve the human right to water and sanitation* (ECE/MP.WH/8).

sanitation, building on lessons learned and good practices from work in countries on equitable access, from experiences under programme areas 3 and 4, and work of other partners;

(d) Promote political awareness on existing inequities based on the outcomes of self-assessments and raise awareness on the need for action to address the issue, in particular by organizing dedicated sessions in international events (such as World Water Week and the World Water Forum).

2. Fostering the adoption and implementation of measures to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation

Work will be undertaken to:

(a) Support the development of up to three local or national equitable access action plans in countries to address inequities in access to water and sanitation on the basis of the *Guidance Note on the Development of Action Plans to Ensure Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation*. The action plans will promote the inclusion of equitable access aspects in strategies or programmes of different sectors, such as water, environmental health, social protection, regional development or education, as well as the setting of targets under article 6 of the Protocol towards eliminating inequities in access;

(b) Facilitate the integration of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation into national legislation by providing tailored advice and supporting the collection of good practices;

(c) Monitor the status of implementation of existing Equitable Access Action Plans in countries and their impact on policies and practices (in collaboration with National Policy Dialogues);

(d) Support the development of a brochure on good practices to ensure that water and sanitation services are affordable;

(e) Monitor progress in this area, including by analysing the relevant information under the fourth reporting cycle under the Protocol, and provide a platform for exchanging experiences, and prompting further progress in ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation by organizing up to two meetings of the Expert Group on Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation.

G. Programme area 7 — Increasing resilience to climate change

Lead Party and country: The Netherlands (tbc) and Italy.

Objectives and expected outcomes: Strengthening resilience of communities to water-related disasters and other effects induced by climate change. This programme area will specifically focus on building awareness, evidence and capacities in addressing the issues of extreme weather events, water scarcity and wastewater reuse in agriculture in the broader water resource management context. Activities will substantiate and foster the setting of targets towards increasing resilience to climate change in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol and will be developed in cooperation with activities under programme area 1 on target setting, programme area 4 on small-scale water supplies and sanitation, and programme area 5 on safe and efficient management of water supply and sanitation systems.

Synergies will be sought with activities related to climate change adaptation in transboundary basins under the Water Convention, as well as with activities of the ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management on resilient and healthy human settlements, activities under the European Environment and Health Process on cities and climate change, and with the WHO Healthy Cities Network.

Linkages to the 2030 Agenda: This programme area aligns with and supports the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal target 6.3 to increase recycling and safe reuse of wastewater; target 6.4 to increase water-use efficiency, ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity; target 11.5 to reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and decreasing the direct economic losses caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations; and Goal 13 to combat climate change and its impacts. It will also help to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement.

Possible partners: Alliance for Global Water Adaptation; International Water Association; national, subregional and regional non-governmental organizations working on climate resilience; OECD; UN-Habitat; United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction; WHO headquarters; and World Meteorological Organization.

1. Building capacity to increase resilience to climate change

Work will be undertaken to:

(a) Develop capacity and promote good practices on building climate resilience of drinking water supply and sanitation services, including preparing for and responding to extreme weather events by organizing a regional workshop (in coordination with programme areas 4 and 5);

(b) Organize, in cooperation with the Water Convention, a workshop on climate change adaptation. The thematic focus of such workshop might include, for example, water and disaster risk reduction, water scarcity, ecosystem-based adaptation and financing of climate change adaptation (in coordination with programme areas 4 and 5);

(c) Support water and wastewater operators in strategic planning for ensuring climate resilience, including through supporting the Climate Risk Informed Decision Analysis (CRIDA) methodology.³

2. Exchanging experience on building resilience to climate change in urban areas

Work will be undertaken to organize a regional workshop aimed at assisting Parties and other States to increase the resilience of water supply and sanitation systems to climate change impacts in urban areas. The workshop will build on the recommendations of the *Guidance on Water Supply and Sanitation in Extreme Weather Events*. It will cover issues such as disaster preparedness and response, adaptation, wastewater management, recycling and reuse. It will also provide a regional forum to facilitate progress towards global recommendations and help incorporate scientific findings into policy approaches. It will facilitate the exchange of knowledge and the joint identification of solutions to build climate change resilient water supply and sanitation systems in urban areas by bringing together the expert communities covering water, sanitation and health, as well as urban planning and climate change expertise.

H. Programme area 8 — Assistance to support implementation at the national level

Responsible body: Secretariat, with the support of the Bureau.

Objectives and expected outcomes: Assisting Parties and other States in securing government commitment and ownership with regard to accession to the Protocol, and

³ See <http://agwaguide.org/about/CRIDA/>.

providing support to setting targets, establishing action plans and implementing measures to achieve them by providing, upon demand and pending the availability of resources, tailor-made support at the national level. Such support will be provided through the National Policy Dialogues, Biennial Collaborative Agreements between ministries of health and the WHO Regional Office for Europe, and specific projects. Activities under programme area 8 will support activities under programme area 1 on target setting as well as promoting approaches and tools developed under programme areas 2 to 7 through capacity-building and exchange of good practices.

Linkages to the 2030 Agenda: This programme area is directly related to Sustainable Development Goal target 6.a, which calls for expanding international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes.

Possible partners: European Commission, including through the European Union Water Initiative Plus for the Eastern Partnership (EUWI+); global and regional financing institutions; and relevant international organizations, donors and development agencies.

1. Supporting accession

Upon demand and pending the availability of resources, support countries working towards accession to the Protocol by assisting them in understanding its benefits, assessing their needs, and providing advice on the accession procedure.

2. Supporting target setting and implementation

Upon demand and pending the availability of resources, assist Parties and other States committed to accession in setting or revising national targets and target dates, and establishing action plans for implementation. Assistance may also involve support with implementing measures to achieve the targets set, including by promoting the approaches and tools developed under the Protocol, such as the equitable access score-card, water safety plans and sanitation safety plans, among others.

I. Programme area 9 — Compliance procedure

Responsible body: Compliance Committee.

Objective, expected outcome and work to be undertaken: The Compliance Committee will perform its activities as set out in decision I/2 of the Meeting of the Parties on compliance, and will monitor and facilitate implementation of and compliance with the Protocol. Moreover, the Committee will provide assistance to Parties under the Consultation Process in accordance with its terms of reference, as amended by the Committee at its tenth meeting (Geneva, 25 November 2014).

Possible partners: OHCHR; Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation; and implementation and compliance bodies under other multilateral environmental agreements.