

# Programme area 2.2

## Drinking water water quality surveillance

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**5th session**

**Meeting of the Parties to the  
Protocol on Water and Health**

19-21 November | Belgrade | Serbia

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# Major milestones since 2017 and outcomes

## Drinking water water quality surveillance

- First Expert Group meeting (Minsk, 13-14 February 2017):
  - Countries needs, concept and scope, target audience and key messages
  - Structure, format and case studies
- Drafting the guidance document on risk-based surveillance of drinking-water quality
  - Support by the University of Surrey, lead Parties, independent experts and WHO Secretariat
  - Peer review by experts
- Core group meeting (Guildford, London, May 2019):
  - “Pinning” of key messages and content
- Professional editing, lay-out, translation and printing



# Output: new publication on risk-based approaches

- Provides a rationale for decision-makers
- Promotes uptake of risk-based approaches to drinking water quality surveillance in legislation and practice
- Emphasizes six key messages
- Illustrated by cases from member states with different context and challenges



# Output: new publication on risk-based approaches

Key message 1:	Surveillance is a core public health function
Key message 2:	Risk-based surveillance is a governmental responsibility
Key message 3:	Risk-based surveillance points at what needs to be looked at
Key message 4:	Microbiological drinking-water quality is a key focus of risk-based surveillance
Key message 5:	Only monitor what is necessary
Key message 6:	Risk-based surveillance aids forward-thinking and anticipation of change



## Case study 1

### A drinking-water outbreak in Miskolc, Hungary, following an extreme precipitation event

Miskolc is a city of approximately 80 000 inhabitants located in north-eastern Hungary. It relies on karstic water for its drinking-water supply. Following an extreme precipitation event, it experienced a multi-aetiological drinking-water outbreak affecting over 3500 people.

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The water supply was i the results arrived (tw incidence of gastrointe of water restricted. The normal. Epidemiologica of infection.

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Further information on

## Case study 2

### Introduction of risk assessments improves compliance in the United Kingdom (England and Wales)

The Drinking Water Inspectorate for England & Wales (DWI) is an independent regulator. Legislation and regulations clearly specify WSP requirements for water companies (public supplies) and local authorities (private supplies). Water companies report summary information to DWI, which assesses the implementation of the WSP approach. Feedback information is provided to the water company and any actions identified to deal with unmitigated risks are set out in legally binding documents (notices). Ongoing audit focuses on validation of existing control measures and identification of additional risk mitigation.

Local authorities in England and Wales are responsible for implementing the Private Water Supplies Regulations 2009. Their regulatory duties include risk assessment for each supply in their area (primarily through on-site visits), monitoring each supply for compliance with drinking-water standards, and investigating and taking enforcement action where a risk to human health is identified or non-compliance is found. Risk assessments are reviewed if new information becomes available (but at least once every five years). DWI's role with regard to private water supplies is to oversee the risk assessment approach taken and provide technical support, respond to enquiries, and provide training and advice to local authorities.



# Suggested future work in this area

- Programme area 2: Strengthening capacity in uptake of risk-based approaches in drinking-water quality surveillance
  - Disseminate the publication on *Strengthening drinking water quality surveillance using risk-based approaches* (forthcoming) and promote national uptake of its key principles;
  - Organize sub-regional and national capacity-building workshops to support Parties and other States in adopting risk-based drinking water surveillance approaches in regulations and practice
  - Create and disseminate a reference list/inventory of supporting resources on risk-based surveillance of drinking-water quality



# Thank you for your attention

