



5th Session

MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH

19-21 NOVEMBER 2019 | BELGRADE | SERBIA

Promoting risk-based approaches in drinking water management – experiences and existing approaches in the Pan-European region

Concept note

Risk-based approaches promote incremental improvement and a rational use of existing resources towards reaching SDG 6.1 on universal access to safely managed water services.

Background

Risk-based approaches became the cornerstone of water safety in the past decade in every aspect of water use, including drinking water, bathing water, wastewater treatment or water reuse. The holistic view of water systems, the comprehensive and continuously renewed analysis of hazards and the assessment of risks provide a higher level of health protection. The guidelines of the World Health Organization and the European Union legislation both promote the uptake of risk-based approaches in the management of drinking water systems.

Objectives, scope and expected outcomes

The objective of the event is to highlight the advantages of using a risk-based approach in drinking water management and surveillance. It will address the uptake of such approaches in the national and international practice – including the European Union legislation - and feature the new publication “Strengthening drinking-water surveillance using risk-based approaches”, which was developed under the Protocol’s programme of work for 2017-2019. Participants are expected to gain a better understanding and higher awareness of the added value of risk-based approaches as an effective means of achieving safe drinking water supply, and thus advance progress towards reaching SDG 6.1 and the Protocol’s objectives.



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Programme

- 13:45 – 13:50 Welcome and opening (*Márta Vargha, Hungary*)
- 13:50 – 14:00 Risk-based approach to water safety in the WHO framework (*Oliver Schmoll, WHO Regional Office for Europe*)
- 14:00 – 14:10 Introduction of the key messages of the new Protocol publication “Strengthening drinking-water surveillance using risk-based approaches” (*Susanne Hyllestad, Norway; Alena Drazdova, Belarus*)
- 14:10 – 14:40 Panel discussion on country experiences with risk-based approaches (*Panelists: Alena Drazdova, Belarus; Kris Van den Belt Belgium, Corina Andronic, Republic of Moldova, Ana Maria de Roda Husman, Netherlands; Susanne Hyllestad, Norway; Finland (tbc)*).
- 14:40 – 14:45 Conclusions and closure (*Márta Vargha, Hungary*)



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