



Protocol on Water and Health

FINLAND: Revised National Targets

Jarkko Rapala
Ministerial Adviser
Ministry of Social Affairs and Health





Target Setting

- First targets set in 2008
- Revision of the targets in 2019
 - Cross-administrative working group: four key ministries in the water branch
 - Collaboration with expert organizations
 - Collaboration with interest organizations
 - Draft targets were tailored according to the statements of other 7 ministries
 - Implementation by the decision of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health



Working Group

- Ministries
 - Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
 - Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
 - Ministry of the Environment
 - Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- Expert Authorities
 - National Institute for Health and Welfare
 - National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health
 - Finnish Environment Institute
- Interest Organizations
 - Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities
 - Finnish Water Utilities Association
 - Global Dry Toilet Association of Finland



Summary of the National 49 Targets for the Years 2019–2030

Target of the Protocol	Number of Targets	Corresponding SDGs
Quality of the drinking water (DW)	4	6.1, 17.14
Reduction of outbreaks and incidents of water-related disease	5	3.3, 3.9
Population served by collective systems for the supply of DW	2	6.1
Population served by collective systems of sanitation	3	6.2, 6.3
Levels of performance by water supply and sanitation systems	5	6.1, 6.4, 9.1, 11.1
Good practices to the management of water supply and sanitation	7	6.1, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.a, 6.b, 9.1, 9.4, 12.2, 12.6, 12.8, 16.6, 16.7, 17.7, 17.9, 17.14, 17.16, 17.17
Discharges of untreated waste water and storm water overflows	3	6.3
Quality of discharges of waste water from waste water treatment installations	2	6.3
Disposal or reuse of sewage sludge and the quality of waste water used for irrigation	5	6.3
Quality of DW sources, bathing waters and aquaculture	6	6.4, 6.5, 6.6
Good practice to enclosed waters generally available for bathing	6	3.3, 4.a, 6.3
Identification and remediation of contaminated sites	1	3.9



Discussion

- First targets in 2008
 - Mainly reflecting implementation of the national and EU legislation
 - Value of the targets of the Protocol: concise cross-administrative summary of the legislation that has impact on water
- Revised targets
 - Focus on good practices and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
 - Next step: evaluation and assessment of indicators for benchmarking



Example: Good Practices to the Management of Water Supply and Sanitation (1)

Status of water sources shall be ensured by protection and sustainable use

- Objectives defined for each water management area
- Promotion of protection plans of groundwater areas
- Reduction of the risks arising from human actions

Water management measures shall be planned in cooperation with all interest groups

- Open and active cooperation
- Risk operations require a permission by the authorities or a notification to the authorities



Example: Good Practices to the Management of Water Supply and Sanitation (2)

DW supply and sanitation shall be subject to the principle of preparedness and comprehensive risk management (Water Cycle Safety Plan, WCSP)

- **WSP for drinking water and SSP, including risks to the environment, for waste water treatment and sewerage**
- **Risk assessment, risk management, surveillance and preparedness for disruptions form a coherent and mutually reinforcing entity**
- **Water supply operators and the authorities shall act in cooperation**
- **National Guidelines of Best Practices: e.g. WSP, SSP, preparedness planning, proficiency tests for personnel, accredited laboratories**
- **Recommended voluntary measures**



Example: Good Practices to the Management of Water Supply and Sanitation (3)

Maintenance of the water supply and sanitation systems

- Investments
- Benchmarking with key figures

Water stewardship commitment

- Encouraged for all undertakings and organizations
- In order to identify the water risks in their value chains and to develop sustainable use and management of water.



Some Key Messages

- Cross-sectoral and cross-administerional targets form a useful and quick-to-use abstract of water-related legislation and good practices
 - Facilitates informing to the general public, media and the multiple operators and authorities in the water sector
- Getting started with a few key targets, although they may appear self-evident, is a good start
 - Upgrading is always possible, and even desirable
- Collaboration and mutual trust between operators, authorities and interest organizations will probably contribute to the most fruitful result
- The targets allow implementation of several SDGs