



# Protocol on Water and Health

## FINLAND: Recognized Added Values

**Jarkko Rapala**  
**Ministerial Adviser**  
**Ministry of Social Affairs and Health**





# Target of the Protocol on Water and Health

- The Parties shall pursue the aims of
  - (a) Access to drinking water for everyone and
  - (b) Provision of sanitation for everyone
  - Within a framework of integrated water-management systems aimed at sustainable use of water resources, ambient water quality which does not endanger human health, and protection of water ecosystems
- The Parties shall establish and publish national and/or local targets for the standards and levels of performance that need to be achieved or maintained for a high level of protection against water-related disease
  - 14 specific target areas mentioned



**Target setting meets with the subsidiarity principle as each Party defines its own targets, their indicators and monitoring of the progress that are tailored to match their own national priorities and capacities**



# The National Targets

- The first Finnish national targets were set in 2008
- Revision in 2019 in a cross-administrative working group
  - four key ministries in the water branch
  - expert and interest organizations
- Draft targets were tailored according to the statements of other ministries and approximately 50 stakeholders and public hearing



**Target setting and implementation of the targets bring all stakeholders together, and enables synergies and public participation**



**Cross-sectoral targets are a useful abstract of water-related legislation and good practices which facilitates raising awareness by informing to the general public, media and the multiple operators and authorities in the water sector**



# Relation of the Targets with SDGs (1)

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



# Relation of the Targets with Sustainable Development Goals (2)

➔ **Target setting according to the Protocol enables implementing of several SDGs in a coherent manner**

➔ **The Protocol provides an intergovernmental platform for the exchange of experience on implementation of SDGs on water, sanitation and hygiene**



# The Protocol and EU-Policies (1)

- EU Human Right Guidelines on Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation (17 June 2019) and Council Conclusions on Water Diplomacy (19 November 2018)

*The Protocol provides a sound framework for the translation of the human rights to the safe drinking water and sanitation and also contributing to the aims of Water Diplomacy*

- Revised Drinking Water Directive and the European Citizens' Initiative Right2Water

*The Union and the Member States have committed themselves, within their respective competences, to the Sustainable Development Goals, whilst recognising the primary responsibility of Member States in the follow-up and review at national, regional and global levels of progress towards the SDGs. Some of the SDGs and the right to water do not fall within the Union's environment policy or the Union's social policy, which is limited and complementary in nature.*

*In this regard, Member States currently undertake considerable efforts to improve access to water intended for human consumption. In addition, the UNECE and WHO Regional Office for Europe Protocol on Water and Health of the UNECE Water Convention that many Member States are also parties to aim to protect human health by better water management and by reducing water-related diseases. Member States could make use of the guidance documents developed under the remit of this Protocol to assess the policy background and the baseline situation on access to water and define the necessary actions to improve equitable access to all.*



## The Protocol and EU-Policies (2)

- Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy and The European Union Water Initiative (EUWI) and National Policy Dialogues (NPDs)
- Directive 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991 concerning urban wastewater treatment
- Regulation on the minimum requirements of water reuse



**The Protocol has synergies with and it can be used to implement several EU-policies and legislation**



**The Protocol provides guidance documents and tools for implementing several EU-policies and legislation**



# Summary of Added Values of the Protocol

- **Target setting meets with the subsidiarity principle, and the targets can be tailored to match national priorities and capacities**
- **The targets and target setting bring stakeholders together and enable synergies**
- **The targets facilitates awareness raising by providing a concise package to be used in informing the general public, media and the operators in the water sector**
- **The Protocol enables implementing of several SDGs in a coherent manner, and it provides an intergovernmental platform for the exchange of experience on implementation of SDGs**
- **The Protocol has synergies with, and it provides guidance documents and tools to implement several EU-policies and legislation**